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## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

### JOINT INVENTORS

We, (1) Kazushi TORII, (2) Toshimasa KITAYAMA, and (3) Nobuyuki HARADA declare that we are citizens/subjects of JAPAN, residing at (1) Himeji-shi, HYOGO JAPAN, (2) Himeji-shi, HYOGO JAPAN, and (3) Suita-shi, OSAKA JAPAN and we have read the foregoing specification and claims and we verily believe that we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the invention entitled

Water-Absorbing Agent and Production Process Therefor, and Water-Absorbent Structure described and claimed therein; that we have reviewed and understand the content of the attached specification, including the claims; that we acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which we are aware which is material to patentability of this application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed by us or our representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as follows:

Japanese Application No. 2001-017902, filed January 26, 2001

Japanese Application No. 2001-176945, filed June 12, 2001

And we hereby appoint:

David S. Abrams	Reg. No. 22,576
Robert H. Berdo	Reg. No. 19,415
Alfred N. Goodman	Reg. No. 26,458
Mark S. Bicks	Reg. No. 28,770
John E. Holmes	Reg. No. 29,392
Lance G. Johnson	Reg. No. 32,531
Dean H. Nakamura	Reg. No. 33,981
Stacey J. Longanecker	Reg. No. 33,952
Joseph J. Buczynski	Reg. No. 35,084
Garrett V. Davis	Reg. No. 32,023
Tara Laster Hoffman	Reg. No. 46,510
Jeffrey J. Howell	Reg. No. 46,402
Aisha Ahmad	Reg. No. 47,381
Marcus R. Mickney	Reg. No. 44,941
Christian C. Michel	Reg. No. 46,300
Mark W. Hrozenchik	Reg. No. 45,316
Julie R. Keller	Reg. No. 30,488
Daryl A. Basham	Reg. No. 45,869
Peter L. Kendall	Reg. No. 46,246

01/19/01

of the firm of ROYLANCE, ABRAMS, BRDO & GOODMAN, L.L.P. as our attorneys or agents with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Correspondence and telephone calls are to be directed to:

Garrett V. Davis, Esq.  
ROYANCE, ABRAMS, BERDO & GOODMAN, L.L.P  
1300 19th Street, N. W., Suite 600  
Washington, D. C. 20036  
(202) 659 - 9076

The undersigned declare further that all statements made herein of their own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

(1) Inventor: Kazushi TORII  
Kazushi TORII

Post Office: Same as address  
Address: Hamadaryo A-107, 931-11, Hamada, Aboshi-ku, Himeji-shi, HYOGO  
671-1242 JAPAN

Date: January 15, 2002

(2) Inventor: Toshimasa KITAYAMA  
Toshimasa KITAYAMA

Post Office: Same as address  
Address: E-103, 931-11, Hamada, Aboshi-ku, Himeji-shi, HYOGO  
671-1242 JAPAN

Date: January 15, 2002

(3) Inventor: Nobuyuki HARADA  
Nobuyuki HARADA

Post Office: Same as address  
Address: 4-41-1-604, Yamadahigashi, Suita-shi, OSAKA 565-0821 JAPAN  
Date: January 15, 2002